



Ft. Eustis and Ft. Story communities experienced a tragic death of a young child recently. As in all accidents, the information below is provided in an effort to reduce or eliminate the possibility of the same type accident occurring again.

Finding: Sadly, a young child pulled a homemade grill over on top of himself while playing in his back yard. The resulting trauma ended his young life. At first glance, the grill appeared to be substantial with a large I beam serving as the base. Upon further investigation, the grill actually was very top heavy and was not stable in the back and forth axis. The I beam, although heavy, had too small of a footprint in those directions. This instability allowed the child to easily pull the grill over.

Recommendation: Request all Ft. Eustis and Ft. Story personnel inspect BBQ grills and other back yard gear such as swing sets and other play equipment for serviceability and compliance with manufactures safety recommendations.

All non-standard equipment should be removed from service or evaluated by a qualified person for serviceability. Parents should inspect homes and yards regularly for hazards and take appropriate action to remove damaged or unserviceable equipment. When you build or set up new outdoor equipment conduct a Risk Assessment on how safe it is not only to you but others that may come near it. Learn more about Risk Management at your Transportation Branch Safety Office or ask us to visit and conduct a Risk Assessment on anything your concerned about. If it looks unsafe it probably is unsafe.

Even under close supervision, children always seem to be able to find hazards easily. Always keep powered lawn equipment, flammables and other outdoor hazardous materials properly stored and secured away from areas accessible to children.